

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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USINFO FOR IBS-POLISH SERVICE, IPS, IEU; STATE FOR
CU/ARTS; VIENNA FOR RPO

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: LAPO CONCERT IN WARSAW

1. DESPITE ARRIVING AT NEARLY DAWN FOLLOWING AIRCRAFT DIFFICULTIES IN BUDAPEST, THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA WENT ON THE NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC STAGE IN WARSAW THURSDAY NIGHT TO SHOW AN ENTHUSIASTICALLY APPROVING AUDIENCE OF 1,100 PERSONS THAT IT IS AMONG THE WORLD'S LEADING SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRAS. WHILE AN AFTERNOON REHEARSAL WAS CANCELLED AND SOME INSTRUMENTS DID NOT ARRIVE, THE UNDAUNTED ORCHESTRA'S FIRST APPEARANCE IN POLAND WAS WARMLY RECEIVED. THE WARSAW AUDIENCE RETURNED CONDUCTOR ZUBIN MEHTA TO THE STAGE WITH AN EXTRAORDINARY 15 CURTAIN CALLS AND TWO ENCORES.

2. THE TWO LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS IN WARSAW -- THE SECOND WILL TAKE PLACE FRIDAY EVENING -- ARE SPONSORED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE POLISH CONCERT AGENCY (POLSKA AGENCJA ARTYSTYCZNA), AND POLISH RADIO-TELEVISION.
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THE THURSDAY NIGHT CONCERT WAS BROADCAST LIVE BY THE IV

PROGRAM OF POLISH RADIO.

3. THE THURSDAY PROGRAM OPENED WITH A TRIBUTE TO THE WORLD-ACCLAIMED CREATIVITY OF POLISH CONTEMPORARY MUSIC, A PERFORMANCE OF "DE NATURA SONORIS II" BY KRZYSZTOF PENDERECKI. IT WAS COMPOSED IN 1971 AND, INTERESTINGLY, WAS FIRST PERFORMED IN NEW YORK CITY AT THE JULLIARD SCHOOL OF MUSIC. FOLLOWING THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC'S PERFORMANCE OF THE WORK, THE COMPOSER CAME FROM THE AUDIENCE TO CONGRADULATE MEHTA AND THE ORCHESTRA FOR THEIR INTERPRETATION.

4. THE SEOND WORK ON THE THURSDAY PROGRAM WAS THE THIRD SYMPHONY OF AMERICAN COMPOSER AARON COPLAND. WRITTEN IN 1946, IT IS ONE OF THE MONUMENTAL WORKS OF AMERICAN MUSIC AND AN APPROPRIATE MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL IN THE ORCHESTRA'S PROGRAM. THE COPLAND SYMPHONY EVOKES A MAHLERESQUE, LATE ROMANTIC STYLE, WHICH WAS BRILLIANTLY DEPICTED IN MEHTA'S MASTERFUL DIRECTION OF THE LOS ANGELES ORCHESTRA.

5. BUT IT WAS THE MUSIC OF ANTON DVORAK, A MORE FAMILIAR COMPOSER OF CENTRAL EUROPE, WHICH WON THE WARSAW AUDIENCE'S UNRESERVED ENTHUSIASM ON THURSDAY NIGHT. THE LYRICAL, MELODIC SEVENTH SYMPHONY IS ETCHED IN THE CLASSICAL SYMPHONIC CONSTRUCTION OF BEETHOVEN BUT WITH THE STILL UNIQUE DVOREK TOUCH. MEHTA AND THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC EXHIBITED THEIR SUPERB VIRTUOSITY WITH THIS WORK, WHICH ELICITED STORMY APPLAUSE, RHYTHMIC CLAPPING AND A STANDING OVATION FROM THE AUDIENCE. IN RESPONSE TO THE ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCE RECEPTION, MEHTA LED THE PHILHARMONIC IN TWO WELL RECEIVED ENCORES, DVORAK'S "SLAVONIC DANCE " AND THE OVERTURE TO VERDI'S "LA FORZA DEL DESTINO".
BRADSHAW

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